



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL DRUG, FIREARMS CHARGES

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for manufacturing methamphetamine, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of a stolen firearm.

Jesse Allen Howe, 22, of Columbia, Mo., was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Jefferson City today.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Howe** manufactured 50 grams or more of methamphetamine in Callaway County on April 16, 2002.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Howe** was in possession of a Marlin .22 caliber rifle on April 16, 2002. Possession of any firearm at that time would have been illegal, Graves explained, due to **Howe's** 2000 criminal felony conviction for attempted manufacture of a controlled substance in Hickory County, Missouri, and **Howe's** 2001 criminal felony conviction for tampering in Henry County, Missouri.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Howe** possessed and concealed a stolen firearm – a Marlin .22 caliber rifle – knowing that the firearm was stolen.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and are not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, MUSTANG (Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group), the U.S. Forest Service, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Callaway

County Sheriff's Department, and the Boone County Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow